

MINUTES

INTERAGENCY MIGRANT WORKER POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 17, 2003

The quarterly meeting of the Interagency Migrant Worker Policy Committee was held at 10:00 a.m. on June 17, 2003 at the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry. The Chairman, Commissioner C. Ray Davenport, who called the meeting to order, and the Policy Committee Administrator, Betty B. Jenkins, were present.

In attendance were the following:

Kenny Annis, MSFW Board Representative
Ron Thompson, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
Perida Giles, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Harry Gregori, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Don Boswell, Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
Kim Lewis, Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission
Jane Brown, Virginia Department of Social Services
Paul Lanier, Virginia Employment Commission
Jack Turner, Virginia Employment Commission
Gary Hagy, Virginia Department of Health
Rick Cagan, MSFW Board

Ms. Jenkins distributed the minutes of the March 11, 2003 Migrant Worker Policy Committee meeting and the April 30, 2003 MSFW Board meeting and other information.

Commissioner Davenport invited members to introduce themselves. He then requested a motion to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2003 meeting; Mr. Gregori moved the minutes be approved and Mr. Lanier seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

Mr. Annis gave a brief overview of the April 30, 2003 MSFW Board meeting. He stated there were presentations on the Virginia Primary Care Association, Pesticide Labeling and DOL Wage and Hour. He noted that Medicaid reciprocity was not mentioned by the representative of the Virginia Primary Care Association who reported that no one was denied services. Regarding the driver's license issue, he felt DMV is handling the problem and added that consideration should be given to the fact that 70 per cent of the workers are undocumented. He indicated the July 16, 2003 MSFW Board meeting will be held on the Eastern Shore and speakers will be Jim Albright and Nancy Stern. Arrangements are being made for tours of one or two farms, a migrant camp, and a Head Start facility.

There was discussion about H2B worker problems. Mr. Turner commented that H2B workers are temporary, non-agricultural employees. He added that Wage and Hour would check for

overtime and minimum wage violations but is prohibited from other areas such as housing. Commissioner Davenport explained that H2B migrant workers who have complaints about housing might have to seek assistance from Legal Aid, as no other agency has jurisdiction.

Mr. Annis commented that H2B workers are not agricultural but tend to be grouped with them. There was discussion about whether the Committee and Board are to address H2B issues. It was noted that DOLI would respond to a wage collection complaint for an H2B worker. Commissioner Davenport advised the challenge to inspect complaints is daunting especially with workers who could provide information but leave the site. He added that some migrant workers not only lack proficiency in English but also are limited in the use of his/her respective language.

Mr. Cagan explained that he continues to gather input from health providers for the letter to be sent on whether health care providers are being reimbursed for services. He will send the letter when it is ready to Ms. Jenkins for distribution.

Mr. Turner stated that VEC's 2003 Plan for Agricultural Services is on their Web site at www.vec.state.va.us.

Commissioner Davenport said that he had no further word on JLARC's inquiries about combining the MSFW Board and the Interagency Migrant Worker Policy Committee.

Commissioner Davenport drew the members' attention to the FOIA address link (<http://leg1.state.va.us/000/src.htm>) in case they were not familiar with the Freedom of Information Act. He also mentioned that May revenues were flat but the state continues to meet projections.

Mr. Thompson noted that DMV has added two documents in Spanish: (1) DMV 141S – Acceptable Documents for Obtaining a Driver's License or Photo ID Card and (2) 142S – Basic Steps to Your Driver's License.

Ms. Brown reported that Social Services has an outreach in progress to find those who are eligible for food stamps. She noted the Community Collaboration Grant from the Department of Labor is available for one-stop organizations to apply for computer equipment to be used for job application and search. The Web site is vbo.dgs.state.va.us (enter Social Services in the search block).

Mr. Hagy spoke of the Department of Health's new Web site containing inspection information on restaurants in Virginia.

Mr. Lanier said that he is retiring on September 1, 2003 and has enjoyed working with the Board and Policy Committee.

Commissioner Davenport added that Butch Wheeling, the Director of Occupational Health, is retiring and other DOLI employees will be retiring during the year. He also extended best wishes to Mr. Lanier on his retirement.

The next Interagency Migrant Worker Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2003.

The next MSFW Board Meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lecture Hall of the Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.